GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:605
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
ERADICATION OF FILARIASIS
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute for Communicable Diseases has made any efforts to eradicate filariasis disease;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more Centres to study the prevalence of filariasis in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the States worst affected by filariasis; and

(e) the efforts made by the Government to reduce the disease?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) The Directorate of National Anti Malaria Programme is the nodal agency for control of filariasis in the country.A National Filariasis Control Programme was launched in 1955 and under the Progamme 48 million population in urban areas are protected through recurrent anti-larval measures alongwith case detection and treatment through 206 Filaria Control Units and 199 Clinics.In rural areas case detection and treatment is provided through Primary Health Centres.Govt. of India is a partner of the global alliance for elimination of filariasis. A Pilot Project in 13 highly endemic districts of 7 States on single dose annual mass DEC administration has been taken up since 1997 to study the impact on lymphatic filariasis.

(b) & (c) There is no proposal to open more Centres to study prevalence of filariasis in the country. Various research institutions of the Indian Council of Medical Research namely Vector Control Research Centre, Pondicherry, Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneshwar alongwith National Institute of Communicable Disease and the Directorate of National Anti Malaria Programme are already involved in filariasis control.

(d) The States of Orissa, West Bengal, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are highly endemic to filariasis.

(e) The efforts made to reduce the disease burden include :-

- Recurrent anti-larval measures.
- Biological control of mosquito breeding with larvivorous fishes
- Anti-parasitic measures by detecting micro-filaria carriers and teatment with Di-ethyl-carbamazine (DEC).
- Referral of acute and chronic filaria cases to Hospitals for effective management.
- IEC activities to increase public awareness.
- Pilot Project to study the feasibility and impact of single dose annual mass DEC therapy in 13 districts.
- Training of Medical and Para-Medical Staff in 3 Training Institutions under NICD.
- Community-based clinical trail has been taken up to study the impact of co-administration of tablet Albendazole with DEC on human health.